Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An assay device for determining an analyte in an aqueous sample comprising:

(i) an elongate flow matrix allowing lateral transport of fluid therethrough by capillary action, wherein said matrix comprises a liquid application zone and downstream thereof, a detection zone having an immobilized capture agent capable of directly or indirectly binding to said analyte,

(ii) a wicking member at the downstream end of the flow matrix and having an upstream end and a downstream end,

(iii) an indicator downstream of the detection zone for indicating when liquid applied in the liquid application zone has reached the indicator, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator substance or substance combination which is capable of exhibiting a visible colour change when hydrated by the aqueous sample, and wherein the indicator is arranged in contact with the wicking member at a variable position between the upstream and downstream ends of the wicking member ~~thereof~~, thereby permitting variation of the time elapsing from the application of liquid to the liquid application zone until the indicator substance or substance combination changes colour, and

(iv) a housing enclosing the flow matrix and the wicking member, wherein the indicator is included on an inner side of the housing at a transparent or translucent portion of the housing ~~thereof~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator substance comprises a single chemical compound capable of changing colour when absorbing water.

3. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the indicator is included on the wicking member.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator includes a hygroscopic substance.

6. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator includes a filler substance.

7. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator comprises a substance mixture attached to the wicking member or the inner side of the housing by tape.

8. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator substance or substance combination on a support which in turn is included on the wicking member or on an inner side of the housing.

9. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 8, wherein the support comprises a strip of solid material.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of performing an assay for determining an analyte in a sample, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing an assay device as defined in claim 1, wherein the indicator is placed in a selected position between the upstream end and the downstream end of the wicking member adapted to the assay to be performed,

(ii) flowing sample and assay liquid(s) through the flow matrix of the device such that they reach the detection zone in a predetermined sequence, and

(iii) when the indicator has changed colour, reading the result of the assay in the detection zone.

11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the support comprises a strip of filter paper.

12. (New) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is positioned in contact with the wicking member in the device at a position such that all assay liquid will have passed the detection zone before assay liquid reaches the indicator.